

Statement of Representative Anna G. Eshoo

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Full Committee Markup

2123 Rayburn House Office Building

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Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased the Committee is taking up several bipartisan bills that will improve our nation's health, and investigate ways to save taxpayer dollars on the government's energy costs. However, I have serious concerns with the so-called *Promoting New Manufacturing Act*.

H.R. 4795, the *Promoting New Manufacturing Act's* intent is to speed up the Clean Air Act permitting process and pave the way for new manufacturing facilities to be built in the United States. These are laudable goals, however, the bill fails to achieve both of them and in the process, could put public health and the environment at risk. Since 1970, the Clear Air Act has required the EPA to set air quality standards that are protective of public health. The legislation before us today would impose new and unnecessary requirements on EPA that would delay implementation of protective air quality standards and allow certain polluters to be subject to weaker standards. This would do nothing to speed the construction of new manufacturing facilities in the United States. In fact, the Clean Air Act permitting agency in my home state of California, the Air Resource Board, stated in a letter to the Committee that this legislation will "have the effect of slowing the issuance of necessary and appropriately protective permits."

I'm also concerned that several of the vague terms in the bill could open the door to costly litigation to block or delay important rules. Ultimately, the procedural hoops that this bill forces EPA to jump through are unnecessary and will delay implementation of critical air quality regulations. For these reasons, I oppose H.R. 4795.

I welcome the Committee's consideration of H.R. 4801 and urge my colleagues to support it. As the nation's largest employer, land owner, and energy user, the federal government should lead by example in implementing energy efficiency measures. These important investments will save energy immediately and save taxpayer dollars in the long run. Thermal insulation of water pipes should be thoroughly explored as a means to achieve energy and water savings in the federal government as well as the private sector.

I also welcome the Committee's consideration and bipartisan support on H.R. 4299, the *Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act*, H.R. 4709, the *Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2014*, and H.R. 4631, the *Combating Autism Reauthorization Act*. These bills will expedite new therapies to patients, combat substance abuse, and improve research and care for those with autism, and I thank the Members on both sides of the aisle who worked to bring them forward.